

EXHIBIT C

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
(WESTERN DIVISION - LOS ANGELES)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,)	CASE NO: 2:24-cr-00621-MWF-6
)	
Plaintiff,)	CRIMINAL
)	
vs.)	Los Angeles, California
)	
DURK BANKS,)	Thursday, May 8, 2025
)	
Defendant.)	(9:42 a.m. to 10:28 a.m.)

HEARING RE:

RECONSIDERATION OF BAIL / DETENTION ORDER

BEFORE THE HONORABLE PATRICIA DONAHUE,
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

APPEARANCES: See Page 2

Deputy Clerk: [REDACTED]

Court Reporter: Recorded; CourtSmart

Courtroom Deputy: [REDACTED]

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361 949-2988

Proceedings recorded by electronic sound recording;
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1 Los Angeles, California; Thursday, May 8, 2025; 9:42 a.m.

2 | (Call to Order)

5 Counsel, please state your appearances.

6 **MR. YANNIELLO:** Good morning, Your Honor. Assistant
7 United States Attorneys Ian Yanniello, Danny Weiner, and Greg
8 Staples on behalf of the Government.

9 | THE COURT: Good morning.

10 MR. SPEAKER: Morning.

11 **MR. FINDLING:** Good morning, Your Honor. Attorneys
12 Drew Findling, Christy O'Connor, and Jonathan Brayman on behalf
13 of Mr. Banks.

14 | **THE COURT:** Good morning.

15 | **MR. SPEAKER:** Good morning, Your Honor.

1 Indictment, the Supplement to the Government's Opposition to
2 Defendant's Application for Reconsideration of the Detention
3 Order, Defendant's Reply in Support of his Application for the
4 Detention Order, and Defendant's Notice of Filing of Exhibit B
5 in Support of his Application for Reconsideration of the
6 Detention Order.

7 All right. Starting with the Government, have I
8 missed anything that you submitted?

9 **MR. YANNIELLO:** Your Honor, I may have just missed
10 it, but you mentioned a Supplement to the Opposition, we also
11 filed an Opposition, and it might be my fault for not having
12 heard Your Honor.

13 **THE COURT:** Oh, no, it's not your -- I did receive
14 your Opposition, yes. Anything else that I missed?

15 **MR. YANNIELLO:** No, Your Honor.

16 **THE COURT:** All right. How about from the Defense,
17 did I miss anything?

18 **MR. FINDLING:** You did not, Your Honor.

19 **THE COURT:** All right. Then since this is the
20 Defendant's application, we'll start with the Defense.

21 **MR. FINDLING:** Your Honor, can I go to the podium?

22 **THE COURT:** Yes, please.

23 **MR. FINDLING:** Thank you, Your Honor.

24 Thank you, Your Honor. And Your Honor, considering
25 the Court has reviewed the papers and this is an application

1 for review basically for change of circumstances, we're going
2 to keep it tight, I've already informed the Government, and
3 stay on point as to the specific issues that we're raising
4 change of circumstances.

5 Regarding the bond package, I think the Court's
6 reviewed it, there's no reason for me to just echo what's
7 already in front of you. If you have any questions, either
8 myself or co-counsel are happy to answer those. So I'm just
9 going to stay on point with regard to the issues that we've
10 raised, Your Honor.

11 Your Honor, you're correct that we ask for
12 reconsideration of the Court's findings of December 12th, 2024.
13 Our application is at, as you know, Dockets 136 to 138. We
14 filed that at the similar time we filed a Motion to Dismiss at
15 Document Number 135 which is presently set to be heard on
16 June 2nd of 2025, and I'll get into that more in a second
17 because that goes as a Motion to Dismiss Superseding Indictment
18 Number One and we don't think that's rendered moot for reasons
19 I'll explain in the next few minutes.

20 But Your Honor will recall that at December 12th of
21 2024, when talking about the facts and circumstances,
22 particularly regard to the issue of dangerousness and threat to
23 the community, we talked at length about the Indictment, more
24 specifically Paragraph 6 regarding a lyrics issue. At the time
25 we offered the Court an affidavit by a producer to show that

1 whoever testified in front of that particular Grand Jury
2 offered provably false information and that was an issue that
3 was the -- kind of the center of the storm. There was two
4 objections actually in the midst of my argument by the
5 Government as to the issue. And in fact, following up on the
6 argument that the Government made at that time, we actually
7 emailed the Government a couple weeks later in January and
8 said, hey, based on your argument if you can give us something
9 in support of what you told the Court. They gave us some
10 information. Nevertheless, we filed the Motion to Dismiss
11 continuing to believe that whatever was in that paragraph in
12 the introductory -- introductory paragraphs of the Indictment,
13 which were re-alleged in the conspiracy count, was provably
14 false. And that became the foundation of the Motion to Dismiss
15 to be heard by the District Court on June 2nd and also the
16 heart of the original application that we filed on behalf of
17 Your Honor.

18 As the Court knows, subsequent to those filings we
19 received a courtesy email from the Government late last week
20 saying that the case was superseded in Superseding Indictment
21 Number Two and that Paragraph 6 of the introductory part of
22 that Indictment and re-alleged in the conspiracy was no longer
23 part of the Indictment. And, quite frankly, our interpretation
24 of that is basic and that is that the Government no longer
25 contends that that was accurate or at least viable testimony.

1 And so that's one of the change of circum --

2 **THE COURT:** Can you explain how that is relevant to
3 the detention issue?

4 **MR. FINDLING:** Yes, I can. So Your Honor, in the
5 original Indictment that Your Honor ruled on on June 12th --
6 excuse me, on December 12th of 2024, that Indictment had three
7 specific facts other than sweeping generalizations. And we'll
8 go to some of those that were reviewed. The Court reviewed a
9 lot of them at the conclusion of that hearing. But there were
10 really only three specific facts alleged in the Indictment when
11 the Court made its decision, because one of the things you
12 referenced was your review, as would be expected, of the
13 Indictment.

14 One of them was that there was this paragraph that
15 claimed that Mr. Banks monetized and celebrated the death that
16 is at the heart of this Indictment, which we now know is
17 provably false. That was one specific fact. The next specific
18 fact was in Paragraph 9 of the conspiracy part of the
19 Indictment, which said that he specifically bequeathed the
20 responsibility for this, you know, giving money or reward or a
21 bounty for the death of the decedent in this case to a specific
22 co-defendant. And the third was the reference to a text
23 message in which he said any flights that happen on or about
24 the time of this incident, any flights shouldn't have my name
25 on it.

1 The second fact which was contained in Paragraph 9 of
2 the trafficking -- of the conspiracy part of the Indictment is
3 also gone. And so it's not -- it's not part of the Superseding
4 Indictment.

5 **THE COURT:** I read that in the papers and I'm looking
6 at the Second Superseding Indictment and in Count One the -- as
7 to all Defendants the object of the conspiracy:

8 1. Defendant Banks would place bounties on
9 individuals that he and other OTF members wanted to kill,
10 including T.B.

11 2. Co-conspirators known and unknown, including
12 Defendant Banks, would recruit others to find, track, and kill
13 T.B.

14 So I wasn't -- and then in the Overt Acts:

15 Overt Act 1: Banks using coded language told co-
16 conspirators and others that he would pay a bounty or monetary
17 reward to anyone who took part in the killing of T.B.

18 So I didn't understand your argument about the
19 language regarding the bounty no longer being charged because
20 it's clearly in the Second Superseding Indictment.

21 **MR. FINDLING:** Your Honor, absolutely the general
22 statements that you just referenced remain. But the Government
23 made a decision as to the specifics of this incident that is
24 the issue in this case, the specifics. They removed
25 Paragraph 9 of the conspiracy count, which actually makes a

1 specific reference to what happened here resulting in
2 somebody's death. The others that you referenced, a hundred
3 percent, they are still in there, but those are general
4 statements.

5 The Indictment, the difference between the first
6 Indictment, Superseding One, and Superseding Two is Superseding
7 One has sweeping generalizations, right, sweeping
8 generalizations, but it has three specific allegations as to
9 the incident that took place in August of 2022. Two of those
10 specific references are gone. Yes, there remains the bounty
11 general statements. But as to the specifics, clearly when the
12 decision was made -- I can't speak for the Government on what
13 their strategy was or what they know or they don't know, but
14 when they went back on Superseding Indictment Number Two they
15 took out two very specific references to the incident of August
16 2022.

17 **THE COURT:** With regard to the bounty, your argument
18 is the First Superseding Indictment specified who he would pay
19 the bounty to and the Second Superseding Indictment doesn't?

20 **MR. FINDLING:** Correct, Your Honor.

21 **THE COURT:** Okay.

22 **MR. FINDLING:** But --

23 **THE COURT:** All right, I understand.

24 **MR. FINDLING:** Yes. Yes. Very -- it's very, very
25 specific.

1 **THE COURT:** Why is that relevant to whether or not
2 he's a danger to the community?

3 **MR. FINDLING:** Well, Your Honor, I appreciate that
4 question because in the finding of dangerousness it has now
5 been a half a year, it's been a half a year since we appeared
6 in front of Your Honor, and we were very careful not to -- I
7 mean you clearly notice, sure, there are times that you look
8 for change of circumstances in weeks, a month or two, but we,
9 without going into the specifics and respecting our protective
10 order, we've gone through tranches of discovery that we
11 received from the Government and to date all we can say is that
12 the only thing that exists after a half a year is sweeping
13 generalizations and so sweeping generalizations as to the
14 reason why Mr. Banks would be a threat to the community. And
15 we are of the position that if you're going to allege
16 dangerousness there has to be some specifics.

17 You'll remember that one of the things that Your
18 Honor said at the conclusion of December 12th, you specifically
19 said when you found dangerousness you said there's no gun in
20 the hand, right, of Mr. Banks, those were your words, but there
21 are these allegations. And nothing has changed since then and
22 our position is that there -- that in order to make a showing
23 of dangerousness to the community, if we look at 31 --18 U.S.C.
24 3142, we've got to look at the evidence. Right? It asks us to
25 look at the evidence. And just putting it in an indictment

1 sweeping generalizations as why he's a general -- he's a danger
2 to the community should not be enough to keep somebody detained
3 when, as the Court -- as the Court referenced at the conclusion
4 of that hearing on December 12th, 2024, there is no criminal
5 record. There was a robust package and continues to be a
6 robust package.

7 We have clarified one of the concerns the Court
8 articulated at the end of the hearing. One of the things you
9 said that was an argument by the Government was that the
10 security company was more for the protection of Mr. Banks and
11 we clarified and we submitted, it's the exhibit to the Court,
12 that the security company would actually almost serve at the
13 behest of the Court to make sure -- of course, they want to be
14 concerned about his security, but make sure that, although he
15 foots the bill, that he abides by the terms and conditions of
16 whatever order is set forth by the Court. So if the Court
17 says, hey, you're in 24/7 lockdown home confinement, that's the
18 responsibility of them.

19 So we continue to have a --

20 **THE COURT:** I have a question. So what you're
21 telling me about the security company is that if -- if the
22 Defendant is released and he is in his home and he seeks to in
23 some fashion violate the conditions, leave the District, leave
24 the country, your position is this security company, who he is
25 paying, is going to contact law enforcement and say he's

1 violating the conditions, come and arrest him?

2 **MR. FINDLING:** We asked the security company to
3 clarify and that's what we submitted to the Court. The
4 security company is --

5 **THE COURT:** That's not clear from what the security
6 company submitted. That's why I'm asking.

7 **MR. FINDLING:** And that's -- that is one hundred
8 percent the position they're taking. We told them we need to
9 know that if bond is granted by her Honor that you will report
10 to anybody, anybody that Judge Donahue says you need to report
11 to, whether it's Pretrial Services, whether it's U.S. Marshals,
12 whether it's the U.S. Attorney's Office, whether it's the
13 Court, will you be beholden to the Court to report to anybody
14 if any of the conditions, if he's smoking marijuana, if he has
15 a drink and he can't, if he leaves when he's not supposed to,
16 if you see him booking a flight, anything like that, will you
17 assume that responsibility so that your reputation is on the
18 line and they said a hundred percent. And we asked them to --
19 and they'll subject themselves to any interview, they've
20 informed us, whether it's by the Government, whether it's
21 anybody on behalf of Pretrial Services, to assure the Court
22 that that's the responsibility that they will assume.

23 So Your Honor, regarding the -- you know, 3142
24 (g) (2), it talks to us about the weight of the evidence and
25 that's why -- that's why I reference those, because Your Honor

1 on December 12th of 2024 made specific reference, as I recall,
2 to 3142, and that's why I bring those up. Any indictment has
3 the ability and usually does make sweeping generalizations.
4 And Your Honor appropriately at that point in time, you talked
5 about the fact that no one puts a gun in his hand, but we have
6 to look to some specifics. And I tell you as an officer of the
7 Court I've tried my best, Mr. Brayman, Ms. O'Connor, everybody
8 in our offices has looked to find anything other than these
9 sweeping generalizations and all we kind of hearken back to is
10 the three very specific facts from the first Indictment.

11 We don't see anything that has discernably changed
12 over the course of six months. We would expect that to do so.
13 And so we kind of go back to the fact that there was -- there
14 was community involvement from him. There were endless good
15 things that were done that we shared with you. And so we're
16 looking at the difference of six months ago and now and I look
17 at -- if I can just kind of rehash your findings at the time.
18 You at that time on Page 43 indicated that the presumption does
19 remain in the case, which we understand, and that we at that
20 time gave you, I think you referenced more specifically
21 considerable information regarding issues of flight, et cetera.

22 Regarding the issue of OTF, we spent a lot of time
23 talking about that at the time. Only the Family. If you
24 remember, I offered corporate papers. And I appreciate you
25 considering that at that time. And in your findings on that

1 time -- at that date on Page 43 you specifically said it's not
2 an issue before the Court whether the Defendant is or is not a
3 member of a gang or how his family organization is
4 characterized. So while I appreciate you considering that, we
5 respect that finding, that at least at that time that really
6 wasn't an issue that you were considering. But nevertheless,
7 we offered that to you and asked you to reflect back on the
8 fact that Only the Family, his record label is duly -- is duly
9 incorporated. It was done so by two very well respected
10 transactional lawyers. We presented to you at the time his
11 corporate relationships with two subsidiaries or divisions of
12 Sony. We had both -- we had a chief operating officer present
13 and another corporate officer from another corporation present.

14 And this is what I was reflecting about your comment
15 about the gun. At the bottom of Page 43 you indicated that you
16 were concerned about the safety of the community and that this,
17 of course, is based primarily on the allegations in the First
18 Superseding Indictment and while the allegations are not that
19 the Defendant personally pulled the trigger, the allegations
20 are that the Defendant exercised a significant amount of
21 control over other individuals and those individuals were
22 acting at his direction. And I can just tell you this, Your
23 Honor, just because you say something in an indictment and just
24 because you echo it over and over again doesn't make it true.
25 And so what I am telling you, at least our finding of all

1 counsel, is that nothing exists other than, as I keep on
2 saying, those sweeping allegations, which we don't think with
3 somebody that does not have a criminal record, that does offer
4 a robust package, that does show you that, as you recall from
5 December 12th, extensive community service, extensively there
6 trying to do the right thing, should be a reason based on six
7 months have passed, six months have transpired and really
8 nothing is different other than the reason I bring up to you
9 that we have surgically, at least from our perspective, gone
10 through Superseding One, this is all counsel, and felt that
11 there were three specific facts, two of those three are now
12 gone. And so the only thing we have is an out of context text
13 message. It is literally, regarding the incident of August
14 2022, when Your Honor looks at the Indictment the only single
15 thing that is left.

16 Now, I know that the Government added in the stalking
17 charge so I want to comment on that for a second. The
18 allegations regarding the stalking charge were factually
19 already present in the first Indictment. There's no
20 difference. If you look at Paragraph 5 from the general --
21 from the general introductory paragraphs, right, Paragraph 5
22 really lays out the stalking allegation, it's just now it's
23 memorialized in the form of an allegation. And Paragraph 5, of
24 course, was re-alleged in the conspiracy count. So the
25 stalking doesn't add anything. We know that the -- that this

1 case is all about the conspiracy charge. So Paragraph -- in
2 our opinion the stalking is really just kind of a diversion
3 from the fact that the three specific facts were down to one.
4 Because the stalking in itself, there's no domestic
5 relationship here or anything like that. The three specific
6 facts are literally down to one.

7 Your Honor, at that time you had indicated, if you
8 recall, and I don't think Pretrial Services changed their
9 position, that in terms of the risk of flight they did not
10 feel -- they felt, at least as to that, there could be a set of
11 conditions that would assure there would be no risk of flight.
12 I know Your Honor did not follow their recommendation but you
13 did say at that time that it was a close call. We think that
14 we can set up the conditions, we can set them up so that will
15 not be an issue in this case, as previously articulated to the
16 Court.

17 Your Honor, one thing, I believe the Government has
18 submitted or is going to submit a 302 regarding Mr. Banks'
19 phone calls from the jail, so let me address that, let me
20 address that issue with the Court, and that is --

21 **THE COURT:** Yeah, this information is also in the
22 Pretrial Services Report --

23 **MR. FINDLING:** Uh-huh.

24 **THE COURT:** -- and it's relevant because it suggests
25 that the Defendant does not respect to follow the rules at

1 the -- set by the Bureau of Prisons.

2 **MR. FINDLING:** Yeah. So if I can address that.

3 First, let me say, and this is not -- this is an issue and
4 anybody that does this work would say this is rampant all over
5 the United States, this issue of the phone calls is what we're
6 talking about. Rampant. So this is not the first case that
7 I've heard about it, either in my own case or other colleagues'
8 cases, this is something we hear -- and you know when we hear
9 about it? We hear about it at detention hearings. And that's
10 the case here. All of us have gone to see Mr. Banks
11 repeatedly. Ms. O'Connor more than all of us because she is
12 local. And not one of us have heard from anybody at the
13 facility that there's ever been a problem regarding the issue
14 of calls.

15 We also have the ability, and it's something that
16 they're very good about, in arranging phone calls with
17 Mr. Banks. So we always have phone calls. And when we arrange
18 those calls, those attorney-client privileged Zoom calls, we
19 work with the facility to arrange the calls. Nobody --

20 **THE COURT:** I don't read the -- the Pretrial Services
21 Report is not -- the calls that are being referred to are not
22 attorney-client privileged calls. These are using other
23 inmates phone call -- phone accounts to make calls. My
24 conclusion from this is these are not calls with attorneys.

25 **MR. FINDLING:** Oh, no, no, no. I'm not saying that.

1 I'm not saying that. What I'm saying is every time we've gone
2 to see him or arranged a call no one has ever said anything to
3 us you need to talk to Mr. Banks, we have a concern about his
4 calls. I'm just letting you know that our presence, both
5 physically and telephonically, is non-stop with the people at
6 the facility. No one has ever said anything to us about this.
7 This is the first time we've heard. And I can assure -- other
8 than phone calls to a parent, phone calls to his spouse, if
9 there were anything of concern on those calls I know that our
10 colleagues from the Government would be on the phone letting us
11 know immediately about those. This is the first time we've
12 heard them.

13 So it's not like we're attorneys that don't show up
14 at the facility. It's not like we're attorneys that are not in
15 contact with the facility. Nobody at the facility has said one
16 thing to us about that. And mind you that this is a facility
17 when we go there that has talked to us about the other problems
18 they have there and -- they have problems with drugs and all
19 that, and all we hear when we go there is nothing but praise
20 for Mr. Banks' conduct when he is there.

21 What we know from going to the facility and talking
22 to the people there is that he's committed to his faith. What
23 we know from talking to the people at the facility is his
24 commitment to his Muslim faith. What we know from going to the
25 facility is the seriousness in which he took Ramadan. That's

1 all we know from the facility.

2 So other than prepping for a detention hearing, which
3 we think is -- warrants a strong showing from us on the papers
4 that we offer in a hearing in which in the wake of a Motion to
5 Dismiss on June 2nd on an issue the Government has now
6 superseded and thrown that issue out, regardless of the fact
7 that they before Your Honor fought -- fought very, very
8 aggressively on that issue and now concede that issue, now it's
9 an eleventh hour issue to look at calls and make something out
10 of we think is really not an issue. And it's certainly not an
11 issue that should warrant when someone cannot be caged, cannot
12 be incarcerated pending trial to prevent them from being
13 released.

14 And so we just do not see that as an issue. We just
15 see that as kind of an eleventh hour let's check on this,
16 because that happens in detention hearings all the time, that
17 at the last minute there's a check. I don't have any
18 information that this has been an ongoing issue. This is
19 something the agents have checked on in anticipation of this
20 hearing today.

21 So Your Honor, our position is that under 3142
22 there's just -- there is just minimal evidence in this
23 Indictment other than generalizations that would support
24 dangerousness to the community. And we think that based on the
25 package that we set forth, and relying on what we shared with

1 you on December 12th, that he should be released on conditions
2 that the Court can establish and that we'll abide by.

3 Look, we know, and I've done this long enough to
4 know, that it is advantage Government, advantage Prosecution,
5 when you have someone accused of a crime sitting in jail
6 preparing for their trial. And while I respect the Court's
7 Order, because you very specifically, and something that I
8 don't see very often and I respect it, you did put in your
9 Order to make sure that he is facilitated by the jail in
10 preparing for court and I appreciate you putting that in there.
11 But my belief is that it always benefits the Government to have
12 somebody incarcerated when it comes to trial preparation. And
13 on the other hand, he's presumed innocent of everything that's
14 contained in that Indictment. He's presumed innocent.

15 And the Court makes a great comment that there's not
16 a gun in his hand, but we all know about indictments that are
17 just listed with a laundry list of specific allegations, real
18 specific allegations as to why somebody is a threat to the
19 community. Save the fact that there are just generalizations
20 here, we are literally in Superseding Two down to one out of
21 context text message. It is the only specific allegation about
22 his alleged activity as to August of 2022. We don't think that
23 that's enough to establish that somebody without a -- 32-year-
24 old man without a criminal record, irrespective of cycles,
25 because cycles amount to nothing, it is convictions, that that

1 is enough to warrant him to remain incarcerated pending his
2 jury trial.

3 **(To Co-Counsel):** Counsel, anything else?

4 **(No audible response)**

5 Okay.

6 Your Honor, thank you for the time.

7 **THE COURT:** All right. Thank you, Counsel. I
8 will -- you did note that your view that the Government is
9 benefited whether the Defendant -- if the Defendant is in
10 custody. That's not a factor the Court considers in deciding
11 whether someone should be detained pretrial. I appreciate your
12 argument. That is not a factor. And I just want to go back
13 and ask you, because I'm not sure --

14 **MR. FINDLING:** Yes, Your Honor.

15 **THE COURT:** -- of your position. So according to the
16 Pretrial Services Report the Defendant repeatedly used at least
17 13 other inmate phone accounts to make phone calls from the
18 MDC, which is in violation of the BOP rules, and he continues
19 to violate the prohibition of engaging in three-way calls. And
20 I hear your argument, which is you just learned about those and
21 in any event he's likely not the only one engaging in this
22 behavior at the MDC. Fair?

23 **MR. FINDLING:** Absolutely fair.

24 **THE COURT:** Okay. All right, thank you, Counsel.

25 **MR. FINDLING:** Thank you, Your Honor.

1 **THE COURT:** All right, I'll hear from the Government.

2 **MR. YANNIELLO:** Just briefly, Your Honor. This
3 murder case is not about Defendant's lyrics and it's not about
4 his music. It's about his conduct. It's about his actions and
5 it's about the steps he allegedly took when he dispatched,
6 allegedly dispatched hitmen to hunt, stalk, and kill a rival.

7 Now, Counsel -- to be clear, Counsel claims that we
8 removed those rap lyrics because we conceded something. That's
9 not the case. The Government could -- stands by the allegation
10 that Defendant did, in fact, commercialize his violence. But
11 that's a question for a different day. Whether those lyrics
12 come in at trial, that's subject to a motion in limine. That's
13 not what the Court is addressing today.

14 The narrow issue before this Court is the Defendant
15 presented new information -- has Defendant presented new
16 information that has a material bearing on the Court's
17 Detention Order. The answer is no. As the Court's (inaudible)
18 made clear, in December this Court found that the evidence
19 presented showed the Defendant uses his money, influence, and
20 power to endanger individuals who he perceives as a threat.
21 That finding was based not only on the serious allegations in
22 this murder indictment, but also on the evidence presented
23 showing that the Defendant had allegedly engaged in a similar
24 murder-for-hire plot in Chicago and critically the Court also
25 considered evidence that as of the date the Defendant was

1 initially charged in this case there had already been threats
2 to witnesses and family members. And specifics of that are
3 laid out in the Government's under seal exhibit. Defendant has
4 failed to present any new facts that undermine the Court's
5 finding.

6 Mr. Findling's claim that the new murder indictment
7 somehow, I believe in their briefing said it was watered down
8 and today he articulated that it has been whittled down to
9 somehow a single allegation, that's just not true. The new
10 indictment contains the same serious allegations about
11 Defendant directing and financing the killing of his rival,
12 T.B. The new indictment contains the same allegations of
13 Defendant placing a bounty to kill T.B. And it's immaterial
14 that the Government removed an allegation related to a payment
15 for the killing of S.R., who was not the target of Defendant's
16 bounty.

17 I would submit that the only change of consequence in
18 the new murder indictment is that Defendant now faces another
19 serious count and that count is stalking resulting in death
20 that carries a maximum penalty of life in prison. That count
21 does not require a bounty, it does not require a payment, it
22 requires a course of conduct that would reasonably be expected
23 to cause substantial emotional distress. The stalking and
24 ambush killing of S.R. clearly meets that, meets those
25 elements.

1 The last thing I would note is that the Court asked
2 questions about the jail calls and Defendant's continued abuse.
3 I'd note that the Government raised that issue in the initial
4 detention hearing. It's not the first time that it's been
5 raised.

6 And as to flight, the question isn't really -- is not
7 whether Defendant's going to appear at the next court
8 appearance, it's whether any assurance -- any conditions will
9 assure his appearance at all court dates. Will he appear at
10 the trial date? Will he appear the last day of trial when the
11 jury is deliberating? As the Court found previously in
12 December, evidence supports the inference that Defendant, who
13 has considerable resources, attempted to leave the United
14 States upon learning of the arrest of his co-conspirators. He
15 tried to flee.

16 And the allegations in this murder indictment and
17 other evidence before the Court, including Defendant's
18 continued violations of jail rules, simply show he will not
19 follow the rules, let alone rules set by a company he's paying
20 for.

21 The Court should reject Defendant's request to reopen
22 the bond hearing and order Defendant remains detained.

23 **THE COURT:** Counsel, you said that -- I was going to
24 ask you, what are the statutory maximum sentences here and, I
25 don't know, do any of these -- the charged statutes carry

1 mandatory minimums?

2 **MR. YANNIELLO:** The stalking resulting -- or let me
3 rephrase. The murder-for-hire resulting in death carries a
4 mandatory minimum penalty of life in prison and the stalking
5 resulting in death has a maximum life imprisonment.

6 **THE COURT:** And Defense submitted the letter from the
7 security company. It's somewhat vague. I don't know if the
8 Government has a position on the use of a private security
9 company to somehow enforce the conditions of release. I wasn't
10 entirely -- the terms in the exhibit submitted by the Defense
11 are somewhat vague.

12 **MR. YANNIELLO:** Yes, Your Honor. I think the
13 Government's interpretation of those kind of broad promises
14 that whatever the Court says will be enforced, simply the
15 economic incentive of the -- a private company being hired by
16 the Defendant and then going and telling on the Defendant when
17 the Defendant violates a rule, to the extent it could even
18 enforce a rule, it just isn't there. That company would never
19 do business again. And so the only -- based on brief research,
20 the only time the Government's seen that this -- a condition
21 like this has been imposed was in San Diego in the Fat Leonard
22 case and that ended up not working out well.

23 **THE COURT:** All right, thank you, Counsel.

24 **MR. YANNIELLO:** Thanks, Your Honor.

25 **THE COURT:** Does Pretrial Services have anything that

1 it would like to add based on the arguments this morning?

2 **PRETRIAL SERVICES OFFICER:** Good morning, Your Honor.

3 (indisc.) for Probation and Pretrial Services. Nothing
4 further, Your Honor.

5 **THE COURT:** All right, thank you.

6 **MR. FINDLING:** Could I briefly respond?

7 **THE COURT:** Yes, you certainly can. If you can go to
8 the lectern, I want to be sure that the microphone --

9 **MR. FINDLING:** Yes, Your Honor. Thank you so much.

10 **THE COURT:** -- catches your comments.

11 **MR. FINDLING:** First, Your Honor, I want the Court to
12 know that in a case like this I'm always trying to be careful
13 to respect the protective order and items that are under seal
14 and I assured counsel that I would do that. So I just want the
15 Court to know there weren't things that I was avoiding, I was
16 trying to be respectful of certain things.

17 **THE COURT:** If there's something that you would like
18 to place on the record that you think will help your argument,
19 you can certainly come to sidebar and do it along with
20 Government counsel, if you think that that is a fact that would
21 assist your argument. I don't want you to think the protective
22 order is somehow preventing you from making a full and complete
23 argument.

24 **MR. FINDLING:** Your Honor, I can really state from
25 here that it's consistent -- everything that the Government

1 said a few minutes ago is really consistent with our point of
2 generalization and uncharged offenses. So as we sit here on
3 this date in 2025 our client has this case and this case alone
4 and remains with no convictions. And so I don't really need to
5 do that and I appreciate the Court accommodating it and I thank
6 you for that.

7 I also would request the Court remember that one of
8 the things we presented to you in December 12th of 2024 is that
9 on a case in Fulton County, Georgia, that was ultimately
10 dismissed in 2019, I believe, the Judge in that case, a
11 Superior Court Judge, Judge Farmer, continued to, I believe we
12 presented to you, lighten up the conditions for Mr. Banks
13 because Mr. Banks in that case, which was a serious case
14 ultimately dismissed, did comply with the terms and conditions
15 as set forth by Judge Farmer in that case. So in a way a
16 little bit of a preview, he did comply with terms and
17 conditions in that matter.

18 Regarding the issue of private security, I would just
19 say that is heretofore not unknown in federal cases in the
20 United States. I've offered that to courts and have
21 received -- in one very big case the Court, a Federal District
22 Court Judge said let's make it happen and we did. And so this
23 is not unknown. I know that Ms. O'Connor whispered to me she's
24 had that before. So having private security companies come in
25 to try to assure that somebody is going to comply with terms

1 and conditions is not uncalled for -- excuse me, is not unknown
2 to the courts. So this is not something that we're just
3 picking out because Mr. Banks is an entertainer and might have
4 assets. This is something that has been done in other cases
5 before. We would never try to be the first one ever to do
6 something like that. So this is not out of the ordinary.

7 And what we did was, based on the Court's
8 observations and concerns back in December, we spent time
9 talking to the company and said, hey, we need you to assure to
10 the Court, to the Government, to Pretrial Services that you
11 will be beholden to the Court to make sure he complies. And so
12 I just want to clarify that for the Court.

13 And lastly, while I appreciate the Government's
14 argument on the issue of rap lyrics, I mean, yeah, that might
15 be a motion in limine as to the general sense of a continual
16 use by law enforcement and prosecution to try to take
17 somebody's music and consider that to be somewhat, you know,
18 incriminating in a case. What we addressed was the very
19 specifics of this case and that is that somehow something was
20 done to celebrate, monetize, and somewhat be a musical
21 confession. That was wrong. That was false. And I want to be
22 very clear that we do not consider the Motion to Dismiss moot
23 on June 2nd because in that motion, the Court should know, we
24 asked the Court secondarily to open up the Grand Jury
25 transcripts to us so we can see who said something to them that

1 was either -- that might have been negligent, we don't know,
2 but that was provably false.

3 So I just want to clear up, sure, we're used to the
4 battle about the general let's attack this musical genre
5 because it's the thing to do, but we're talking about this
6 specific instance that was reflected in Paragraph 6 of the
7 general facts is gone and it was hotly contested and that's
8 gone. Whether or not they want to try to go after music in
9 general, sure, a motion in limine. But this important issue is
10 gone from the Indictment.

11 Thank you.

12 **THE COURT:** All right, thank you, Counsel. Is there
13 anything further from the Government?

14 **MR. YANNIELLO:** No, Your Honor.

15 **THE COURT:** All right. And nothing further from the
16 Defense?

17 **MR. FINDLING:** No, Your Honor.

18 **THE COURT:** All right. The Application for
19 Reconsideration is based on the fact that there is new
20 information to be presented that was not considered at the
21 initial hearing. The new information that the Defense points
22 to is the Second Superseding Indictment and the differences
23 between the allegations in the Second Superseding Indictment
24 from those in the First Superseding Indictment and then also
25 the security service's apparent willingness to somehow enforce

1 or report -- enforce court orders or report violation of court
2 orders. Other than that, the bond conditions appear to be the
3 same.

4 I just wanted to ask the Defense if there's anything
5 else that is new information. The amount of money changed, did
6 the amount of money also change?

7 **MR. FINDLING:** It changed from property, but there
8 was substantially more cash. We think it's approximately --

9 **THE COURT:** Right.

10 **MR. FINDLING:** -- the same amount. It's just cash in
11 place of property.

12 **THE COURT:** That's what I thought, the combination is
13 a little bit different. All right.

14 So what is really the thrust of the argument is -- on
15 the Defense side is the change in the allegations from the
16 First to the Second Superseding Indictment. And certainly the
17 admissibility of the lyrics and what brought about the change
18 in the Indictment are matters to be raised by the District
19 Court. But that does not change this Court's finding from
20 December on either dangerousness to the community or risk of
21 flight. I appreciate the argument that the allegations are
22 more general, but they also remain the most, the most serious,
23 as reflected in the potential punishment. Even with the more
24 general language, the Indictment continues to allege that he
25 essentially orchestrated and ordered and recruited others to

1 find, track, and kill an individual who he had an incentive to
2 kill. And the -- at the first detention hearing a number of
3 other prior -- his prior somewhat similar behavior in Chicago
4 was also addressed and that has not -- there's no challenge to
5 that. Those circumstances remain the same.

6 So there are not changed circumstances presented that
7 would warrant reconsideration of the Order of Detention based
8 either on dangerousness or on risk of flight.

9 I appreciate the argument from the Defense that the
10 behavior regarding the use of other felons at the MDC maybe is
11 not uncommon. Nonetheless, it shows a disrespect for the
12 rules. And that is precisely the Court's concern with regard
13 to risk of flight. More significantly, obviously, reflected in
14 his attempt to leave the country after learning of the
15 indictment of his co-conspirators.

16 So for all of those reasons the Application for
17 Review of the Detention Order is denied.

18 All right, is there anything further on this matter
19 from the Government?

20 **MR. YANNIELLO:** No, Your Honor. Just the matter of
21 the arraignment on the --

22 **THE COURT:** Oh, the arraignment.

23 **MR. YANNIELLO:** -- Second Superseding Indictment.

24 **THE COURT:** Thank you for reminding me. Yes.

25 All right, it's the Second Superseding Indictment.

1 I'll ask my Courtroom Deputy to please proceed.

2 **THE CLERK:** Durk Banks, have you read or has the
3 statement of your rights been read to you by your attorney?

4 **THE DEFENDANT:** Yes, ma'am.

5 **THE CLERK:** Did you sign or did you authorize your
6 attorney to sign the Statement of Rights on your behalf?

7 **THE DEFENDANT:** Yes, ma'am.

8 **THE CLERK:** Has the Second Superseding Indictment
9 been read to you by your attorney?

10 **THE DEFENDANT:** Yes.

11 **THE CLERK:** Do you understand the substance of the
12 charges pending against you?

13 **THE DEFENDANT:** Yes.

14 **THE CLERK:** Counsel, how does your client intend to
15 plead?

16 **MR. FINDLING:** We plead not guilty to the Second
17 Superseding Indictment.

18 **THE CLERK:** Durk Banks, how do you plead to the
19 charges contained in the Second Superseding Indictment?

20 **THE DEFENDANT:** Not guilty.

21 **THE COURT:** All right. Isabel, can you go ahead and
22 set forth the dates?

23 **THE CLERK:** Jury trial is set for October 14th, 2025,
24 at 8:30 a.m. and Judge Fitzgerald is located in Courtroom 5A at
25 the First Street Courthouse, 350 West 1st Street, Los Angeles.

1 Oh, and the motion hearing is set for June 2nd, 2025,
2 at 1:30 p.m.

3 **THE COURT:** All right. Thank you, Counsel, for
4 reminding me of that. Is there anything further?

5 **MR. YANNIELLO:** No, Your Honor.

6 **THE COURT:** Anything further from the Defense?

7 **MR. FINDLING:** No, Your Honor.

8 **THE COURT:** All right. Thank you, Counsel.

9 **THE CLERK:** Court is adjourned.

10 **(This proceeding was adjourned at 10:28 a.m.)**

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CERTIFICATION

I certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript
from the electronic sound recording of the proceedings in the
above-entitled matter.



November 20, 2025

Signed

Dated

TONI HUDSON, TRANSCRIBER